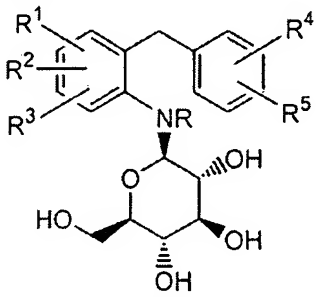
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ compound~~, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or the prodrug thereof according to claim 1, wherein the compound is~~ represented by the following formula IA:



(IA)

wherein R^1, R^2, and R^3, are independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, a haloalkoxy group, a hydroxyalkyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an alkoxyalkoxy group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkylidenemethyl group, a phenyl group, a phenylalkoxy group, a cyano group, a nitro group, an amino group, a mono- or di-alkylamino group, an alkanoylamino group, a carboxyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a mono- or di-alkylcarbamoyl group, an alkanoyl group, an alkylsulfonylamino group, a phenylsulfonylamino group, an alkylsulfinyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group or a phenylsulfonyl group;

R^4 and R^5 are independently a hydrogen atom; a halogen atom; a hydroxyl group; an alkoxy group; an alkyl group; a haloalkyl group; a haloalkoxy group; a hydroxyalkyl group; an alkoxyalkyl group; a phenylalkyl group; an alkoxyalkoxy group; a hydroxyalkoxy group; an alkenyl group; an alkynyl group; a cycloalkyl group; a cycloalkylidenemethyl group; a phenyloxy group; a phenylalkoxy group; a cyano group; a nitro group; an amino group; a mono- or di-alkylamino group; an alkanoylamino group; a carboxyl group; an alkoxycarbonyl group; a carbamoyl group; a mono- or di-alkylcarbamoyl group; an alkanoyl group; an alkylsulfonylamino group; a phenyl-sulfonylamino group; an alkylsulfinyl group; an alkylsulfonyl group; a phenylsulfonyl group; a phenyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom, a cyano group, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, an alkoxy group, a haloalkoxy group, an alkylenedioxy group, an alkyleneoxy group, or a

mono- or di-alkylamino group; or a heterocyclyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom, a cyano group, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group, an alkoxy group, or a haloalkoxy group, or R^4 and R^5 are combined with each other at the terminals thereof to form an alkylene group; and

R is a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkanoyl group or a lower alkoxy-carbonyl group,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The compound, or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~or the prodrug thereof~~ according to claim 12, wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a hydroxy-lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a halo-lower alkoxy group, or a lower alkoxy-lower alkoxy group;

R^4 and R^5 are independently a hydrogen atom; a halogen atom; a lower alkyl group; a halo-lower alkyl group; a phenyl-lower alkyl group; a phenyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a methylenedioxy group, an ethyleneoxy group, or a mono- or di-lower alkylamino group; or a heterocyclyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom, or a lower alkyl group, or R^4 and R^5 are ~~combine~~ combined with each other at the terminals thereof to form an alkylene group.

14. (Currently Amended) The compound, or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~or the prodrug thereof~~ according to claim 12, wherein R^1 is a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, or a lower alkoxy group, R^2 and R^3 are a hydrogen atom, R^4 is a halogen atom; a lower alkyl group; a lower alkoxy group; a phenyl group optionally substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a cyano group, a lower alkyl group, a halo-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, and a mono- or di-lower alkylamino group; or a heterocyclyl group optionally substituted by a halogen atom or a lower alkyl group, and R^5 is a hydrogen atom.

15. (Currently Amended) The compound, or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~or the prodrug thereof~~ according to claim 12, wherein the heterocyclyl group is a thienyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a pyrazolyl group, a thiazolyl group, a quinolyl group, or a tetrazolyl group. ~~tetrazolyl.~~

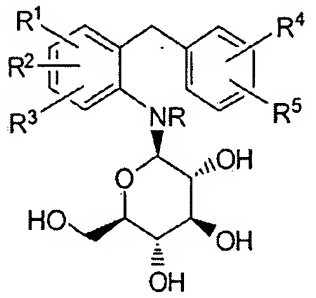
16. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound, or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~or the prodrug thereof~~ as set forth in claim 12 ~~1~~, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or delaying the progression or onset of diabetes, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic neuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, delayed wound healing, insulin resistance, hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia, elevated blood levels of fatty acids, elevated blood levels of glycerol, hyperlipidemia, obesity, hypertriglyceridemia, Syndrome X, diabetic complications, atherosclerosis or hypertension, which comprises administering to a mammalian species in need of treatment a therapeutically effective amount of the compound, or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~, or the prodrug thereof~~ as set forth in claim 12~~1~~.

Claims 19-20 (Cancelled)

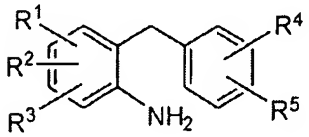
21. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula IA:



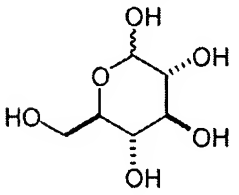
(IA)

wherein the symbols are the same as defined in claim 12,

which comprises condensing a compound of formula:



wherein the symbols are the same as defined above, and a compound of formula II:



(II)